

Fort Baker, Storehouse (Building No. 570)
Near Breitung and Satterlee Rds. intersection
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Sausalito Vicinity
Marin County
California

HABS No. CA-2643-A

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Western Region
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California 94107

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

Fort Baker, Storehouse (Building No. 570)

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Location Building FB-570 is located just east of the intersection of Breitung and Satterlee Roads in East Fort Baker, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Marin County, California.

USGS Quadrangle San Francisco North, California, AMS 1559 IV SW Series V895; 7.5 minute Series UTM Coordinates: Zone 10, 4187400 N 546300 E

Present Owner National Park Service

Original Use Storehouse

Present Use Storehouse used by National Park Service and Bay Area Discovery Museum

Significance Building FB-570 is significant as a relatively unmodified example of a Theatre of Operations 700 (T.O. 700) Series Storehouse (Type WH-A-T) built in 1942 as part of the mobilization effort for World War II. The T.O. 700 Series was the final generation of World War II mobilization series; it was preceded by the 700 Series, the 800 Series and the Modified Theatre-of-Operations Series. Building FB-570 functioned as a Quartermaster storehouse in Ft. Baker, one of several forts which contributed to the seacoast defenses of San Francisco Bay. It is a non-contributing feature of Forts Baker, Barry and Cronkhite Historic District, a National Register property. The building is scheduled for demolition.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Date of Erection -- Construction of building FB-570 began sometime in the latter part of 1942 and was completed late in that year or early in 1943.¹ The "Fort Baker Quartermaster Form No. 117 Building Records" do not include a completion report for this building, perhaps because the building was constructed by the Office of the Corps of Engineers, which took over mobilization construction from the Quartermaster Corps on December 1, 1941.²
2. Architect -- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Major J.H. Veal, Office of Engineers, oversaw construction of building FB-570.

3. Original and subsequent owners -- Lime Point Military Reservation, which would become the two contiguous military reservations Fort Baker and Fort Barry, was purchased by the United States War Department on July 24, 1866.³ The War Department established Fort Baker by General Orders No. 25 on May 4, 1897.⁴ The War Department owned building FB-570 from the time of its construction until 1947, when the U.S. Department of Defense succeeded the War Department. In 1974 ownership of Fort Baker was transferred to the National Park Service. The building has been owned by the National Park Service since that time.
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers -- Builder was the U.S. Army; contractors and suppliers are not known.
5. Original plans and construction -- Building FB-570 was built from Theatre of Operations 700 Series plan number T.O. 700-6000.4 (Type WH-A-T) and associated plan numbers.⁵ The original cost of the building is not known.
6. Alterations and additions -- None.

B. Historical Context

Nationwide Mobilization for World War II

Building FB-570 was constructed in 1942 as part of a continuing, large-scale building program which aimed to construct cantonments across the nation in which to house and train a rapidly expanding army which had been in the process of mobilization since before the War when German aggression had been on the rise in Europe and Japanese armed strength had been increasing in the Pacific. By the time this building program ended in 1944, the Army could house in the continental United States up to 6,000,000 troops as compared to 200,000 in 1939.⁶

The Theatre of Operations 700 (T.O. 700) Series drawings used to construct mobilization structures were standardized sets for various wood-frame building types that allowed for idiosyncrasy only within a limited number of alternatives. Following in succession the 700 Series, the 800 Series, and the Modified Theatre-of-Operations Series, the T.O. 700 Series was the final generation of World War II mobilization structures. Before World War II, theatre of operations construction

was only employed in areas designated as theatres of war; it was the least expensive, most temporary type of construction the Army carried out. As World War II progressed, however, needs dictated that buildings be put up quicker, and with the use of non-critical materials. For the first time, theatre of operations construction was employed on a wide scale stateside. The T.O. 700 Series was adopted as the mobilization series of choice in October 1942.⁷

The T.O. 700 Series and its predecessors are significant architecturally for having pioneered in the standardization of plans, in the prefabrication of materials, and in the methods of assembly-line construction.⁸ Compared to its predecessors, the T.O. 700 Series is characterized by the use of inexpensive, non-critical materials (i.e. concrete-asbestos rather than wood siding), by purely functional designs devoid of ornament, and by the employment of less sophisticated construction techniques.⁹

Bay Area Mobilization for World War II

Building FB-570 is specifically associated with the mobilization of the Harbor Defenses of San Francisco (HDSF) in response to the potential for a seaborne or aerial assault by Japan. In a Pacific war scenario San Francisco Bay, the most important Pacific Coast port with its military bases and ship-building capabilities, would be a prime target of attack. As a result, the HDSF were modernized beginning in the years prior to the War and during the course of the War itself.

Building FB-570 was built in Fort Baker late in 1942 or early in 1943. At roughly the same time, a mobilization hospital was constructed adjacent to building FB-570 for the express purpose of serving Coast Artillery troops who manned the HDSF.¹⁰ Building FB-570 functioned as a Quartermaster storehouse in Fort Baker.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural Character -- Building FB-570 is a long, rectangular-shaped, one-story storehouse structure bisected at mid-course by a brick fire wall and with a low sloping roof, whose design and

materials exemplify Theatre of Operations 700 Series construction, the last generation of World War II mobilization construction which was the cheapest, most temporary type employed during the course of the War. Devoid of ornament and pierced along its length on both sides by seven sets of oversized double-sliding wooden doors which are painted white, the building's appearance bespeaks its function as a storehouse. Inexpensive materials such as transite shingle siding and electrical nob-and-tubing and rudimentary construction methods such as exposed wood framing on the interior illustrate the emergency climate out of which the building was constructed.

2. Condition of Fabric -- The overall condition of building FB-570 is poor, with the interior of the building being in better condition than the exterior. Many of the transite shingles which serve as siding are broken and missing. Most of the 12-light windows which occur in sets of three around the perimeter of the building are missing and boarded over. Many of the glass panes in those windows which remain have been shattered. Wood trim features such as door jambs and window eyebrows are in many cases missing and in all cases weathered in the extreme. In some areas entire portions of wall have become disengaged from the building footing and roof to the point where structural integrity is jeopardized.

B. Description of the Exterior

1. Overall Dimensions -- Building FB-570 is rectangular in shape. It measures 256' in length, 32' in width and 16' in height.
2. Foundations -- Building FB-570 has a 6" wide concrete strip footing which extends to 7" at the support posts. Steel anchor bolts 18" o.c. penetrate a 2" x 4" sill plate in the footing. Exterior sheathing overlaps the face of the footing by 2". The posts which run along the center of the building rest on individual concrete footing piers, each 10" square and 6" high. The brick fire wall which bisects the building is layed into the footing.

3. Walls -- Exterior walls consist of three layers: wooden sheathing nailed to stud framing, black construction paper, and transite shingle siding measuring 11" x 24" each. A brick fire wall which bisects the building into two halves is visible from the exterior. It is 13" in width and extends 18" out beyond the transite siding.
4. Structural system, framing -- Framing consists of three rows of 6" x 6" posts at 16' o.c. which support double 2" x 10" composite beams. The beams support a roof composed of 2" x 6" stringers which run lengthwise at 4' o.c. supporting 1" x 6" wooden sheathing. 2" x 6" knee bracing provides lateral support at the roof.
5. Porches -- Concrete apron ramps 14' in width extend out/away from the building 5' at each double-sliding doorway.
6. Chimneys -- One small chimney and two small ventilation fan stacks penetrate the roof on the half of the building west of the fire wall. The chimney is located in the center of the roof, 16' from the extreme west edge of the building. The ventilation stacks are located in the northwest and southeast corners of this side of the building.
7. Openings --
 - a. Doorways and doors -- Seven center-opening double sliding wooden doors (barn-like in appearance), occur on both sides of the building lengthwise. The doors are 10' wide and roughly 12' in height. They are composed of 1" x 8" wooden planks joined horizontally by tongue-and-groove. 1" x 8" planks frame the tongue-and-groove portions of the doors, and 1" x 8" planks nailed horizontally and diagonally to the exterior of the doors form a starburst pattern and provide shear support. Two five-panel personal/access doors occur on the lengthwise side of the building to the south. They are located at the extreme west and east ends of this side of the building.
 - b. Windows and shutters -- The building is partially lighted by a clerestory which is

composed of 12-light windows, occurring in twenty sets of three, side-by-side around the perimeter of the building: seven sets on the south elevation, nine on the north and two sets at either end. The windows are fixed wood sash with a bottom edge extending about 2" out from a framing plank. An "eyebrow" overhang about 4" in width occurs at each set of three windows. There are no shutters.

8. Roof --

- a. Roof shape, covering -- Building FB-570 has a low-sloping roof with a 2" overhang around the entire perimeter of the building. A central section raised about 18" runs most of the way along the roof's ridgeline. The roof is interrupted at mid-course by a brick fire wall, 13" wide, which rises about 2' above the level of the roof. The fire wall is topped by a cement wash with flashing on the sides to facilitate drainage. The roof covering is tar and gravel over building paper.
- b. Cornice, eaves -- N/A.
- c. Dormers, cupolas, towers -- N/A.

C. Description of the Interior

- 1. Floor plans -- Building FB-570 is a simple one-story structure. Its only floor is bisected into two equal halves by a brick fire wall which is 13" in width. On the east side of the wall the building is entirely open in plan except for a central row of support beams. The west half of the building is also open storage space except for the central row of support beams and a room which served as an office that occupied the 16' of the building at the extreme west (only a remnant of the wall which separated office from storage space remains). Total area is 8,309 square feet.¹¹
- 2. Stairways -- N/A.
- 3. Flooring -- Concrete slab.
- 4. Wall and ceiling finish -- N/A. Open frame.

5. Openings --

- a. Doorways and doors -- N/A. See description of exterior.
- b. Windows -- N/A. See description of exterior.

6. Decorative features and trim -- N/A.

7. Hardware -- Standard iron hardware.

8. Mechanical equipment --

- a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation -- A "Custom Aire" heater, mounted on a 6" high wooden platform, is located in and heated the office area. Ventilation fans are suspended from the ceiling in the northwest and southeast corners of the west half of the building.
- b. Lighting -- Nob-and-tubing electrical system still functioning with bare hanging light bulbs.
- c. Plumbing -- N/A.

D. Site

- 1. General setting and orientation -- Fort Baker occupies a bowl lush with grasses and nicely landscaped with trees between Lime Point and Cavallo Point and overlooking tiny Horseshoe Bay directly adjacent and San Francisco Bay beyond, both to the south. The Fort sits literally in the shadow of the Golden Gate Bridge which is just to the west. The Main Post, composed of charming early 20th century wood-frame military quarters, forms a horseshoe which opens up to the bay. Building FB-570 is located outside the margins of the nicely manicured Main Post, a few hundred yards to its southeast, on a small hillock which was cut and levelled for the building's construction, in a less picturesque area reserved for utilities and storehouse structures of its own type. This area is now occupied by the Bay Area Discovery Museum. A mobilization hospital composed of roughly twenty

buildings, no longer extant, originally stood adjacent to the storehouse, down the hillock to the west. The portion of the fort occupied by the hospital and storehouses sits between the Main Post and the shore of Horseshoe Bay. Building FB-570 is aligned west-southwest to east-northeast along its long axis.

2. Historic landscape design -- Landscape design, like building design, was purely utilitarian. The hillock on which building FB-570 sits was cut and levelled for the building's construction. The perimeter of the building extending roughly 15-20' from the building exterior was paved with red rock. A concrete gutter was built around the perimeter of the red rock paving to provide site drainage.

3. Outbuildings -- N/A.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Original Architectural Drawings

Building FB-570 was built from Theatre of Operation 700 Series plan number T.O. 700-6000.4 (Type WH-A-T) and associated plan numbers. The following extant drawings are all housed at Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Presidio Army Records Center, Building PE-667, Forts Baker, Barry, Cronkhite, Etc. Collection, Drawer 183, East Fort Baker 500-599, in San Francisco, CA: Sheet number T.O. 700-6001.1, "Ft. Baker Utilities Buildings and Storehouses: Modified Floor Plans," Sept. 29, 1942 (Collection # 60947); Sheet number A1-101, "Ft. Baker Utilities," as-built April 1943 (Collection # 60794); Sheet number A1-105, "Ft. Baker Utilities Buildings and Storehouses: Grid, Plot Plan, Utilities," Sept. 29, 1942 (Collection # 61005); Sheet number A1-105.1, "Ft. Baker Utilities Buildings and Warehouse: Roads, Drainage, Walks," as-built June 9, 1943 (Collection # 19713); Sheet number A1-105.2, "Ft. Baker Utilities Buildings and Storehouses: Plot Plan and Utilities, Completion," February 1943 (Collection # 19712).

- #### B. Early Views -- N/A.

- #### C. Interviews -- N/A.

D. Bibliography

1. Primary and unpublished sources

Master Plan, Building Information Schedule (AR 210-20) Forts Baker, Barry and Cronkhite, California (Master Planning Office, Directorate of Facilities Engineering: Headquarters Presidio of San Francisco, 1971). Available at Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Cultural Resources Branch, San Francisco, CA.

2. Secondary and published sources

Thompson, Erwin N., Forts Baker, Barry, Cronkhite: Historic Resource Study (National Park Service: Denver, 1979).

Wasch, Diane Shaw, Perry Bush, Keith Landreth, James Glass, et al., World War II and the U. S. Army Mobilization Program: A History of 700 and 800 Series Cantonment Construction (A HABS/HAER Report published by the United States Department of Defense and the National Park Service: Washington, D.C., 1989).

E. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated

Veal, J.H., "Completion Report of Construction of Hospital Buildings," June 30, 1942, housed at Washington National Records Center, Record Group 77, Office of the Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army, Completion Reports, Forts Baker and Barry, located in Suitland, Maryland.

F. Supplemental Material -- N/A.

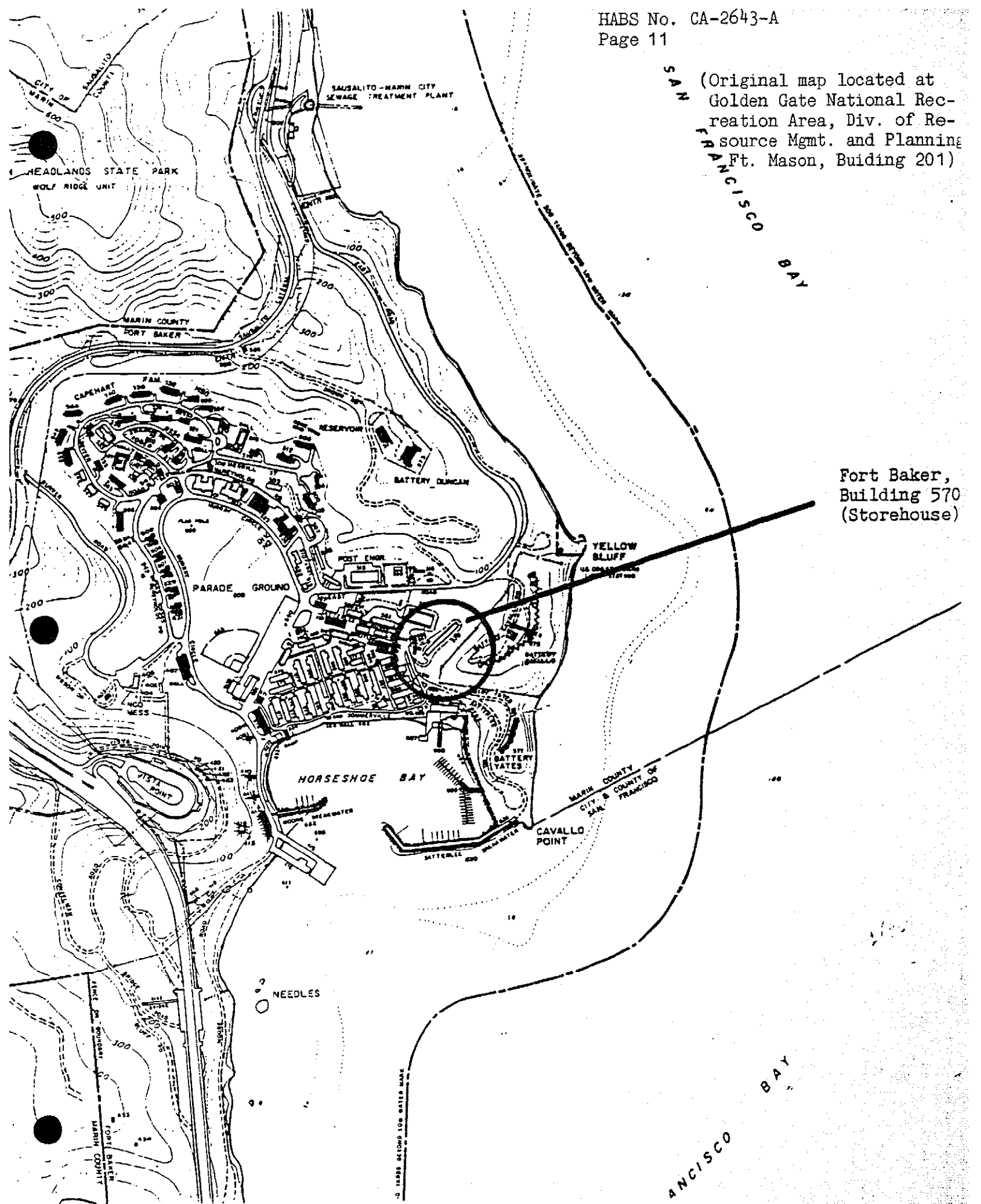
PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This documentation was carried out as mitigation for the demolition of building FB-570 by the National Park Service, Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Demolition is called for in the General Management Plan and Environmental Analysis: Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Point Reyes National Seashore (1980). The documentation was carried out by Paul Scolari, Historian, National Park Service, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Division of Resource Management and Planning. Photography was carried out by Dewey Livingston, Historian, National Park Service, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, List of Classified Structures Team.

ENDNOTES

1. These dates are derived from drawings/plans for building FB-570 which are housed at Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Presidio Army Records Center, Building PE-667, Forts Baker, Barry, Cronkhite, Etc. Collection, Drawer 183, East Fort Baker 500-599, San Francisco, CA.
2. Microfilm, San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, J. Porter Shaw Library, Historic Document Collection 958, Presidio of San Francisco Building Records Collection. See Wasch, Diane Shaw, Perry Bush, Keith Landreth, James Glass, et al., World War II and the U.S. Army Mobilization Program: A History of 700 and 800 Series Cantonment Construction (A HABS/HAER report published by the United States Dept. of Defense and the National Park Service: Washington, D.C., 1989) p. 40, for the transfer of construction responsibility.
3. Thompson, Erwin N., Forts Baker, Barry, Cronkhite: Historic Resource Study (National Park Service: Denver, 1979) p. 17.
4. Thompson, Forts Baker, Barry, Cronkhite (1979) p. 37.
5. See sheet number T.O. 700-6001.1 housed at Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Presidio Army Records Center, Building PE-667, Forts Baker, Barry, Cronkhite, Etc. Collection, Drawer 183, East Fort Baker 500-599, Collection # 60947.
6. Wasch, et al., World War II and the U.S. Army Mobilization Program (1989) p. 115.
7. For the information in this paragraph see Wasch, et al., World War II and the U.S. Army Mobilization Program (1989) pp. 45-49.
8. Wasch, et al., World War II and the U.S. Army Mobilization Program (1989) p. 3.
9. Wasch, et al., World War II and the U.S. Army Mobilization Program (1989) pp. 45-49.
10. Thompson, Forts Baker, Barry, Cronkhite (1979) p. 62.
11. Master Plan, Building Information Schedule (AR 210-20), Forts Baker, Barry and Cronkhite, California (Master Planning Office, Directorate of Facilities Engineering: Headquarters Presidio of San Francisco, 1971) p. 9.

(Original map located at
Golden Gate National Rec-
reation Area, Div. of Re-
source Mgmt. and Planning
Ft. Mason, Buiding 201)



Fort Baker,
Building 570
(Storehouse)